

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:-

1. A text insertion system for a video security system having a video camera and a video monitor and/or a VRD capable of operation in a record mode, the text insertion system comprising:

5 a text insertion means connected between the video camera and the video monitor and/or VRD for inserting a text signal into a video signal received from the video camera for display on the video monitor and/or recordal by the VRD, the insertion of the text signal being timed within the back porch of the video signal so that the text signal does not alter the visible part of the video frame of the video signal;

10 a control means connected to the text insertion means, the control means generating the text signal and sending the text signal to the text insertion means; and,

15 a playback means operatively associated with the text insertion means and the control means, the playback means responding to the text signal portion of the video signal, the playback means having a text signal display means for rendering the text signal visible on the video monitor, and a text signal hiding means for rendering the text signal non-visible on the video monitor, the text signal display means and the text signal hiding means being operable by a person using the text insertion system to allow alternating between showing text corresponding to the text signal on the video monitor and showing on the video monitor that part of the video frame which would otherwise be obscured by the text, and the playback means being able to make the text signal visible or hidden during both recording and playback modes of operation of the VRD.

20 25 2. A transmission cable equalisation system for a video security system having a plurality of video cameras and a video monitor and/or a VRD capable of operation in a record mode, the transmission cable equalisation system

comprising:

5 a selector means connected between the video cameras and the video monitor and/or VRD for selecting video signals from the video cameras to be directed to the video monitor and/or VRD so that the video signal from one video camera is displayed on the video monitor and/or recorded on the VRD at a time;

10 an equaliser means connected between the selector means and the video monitor and/or VRD for equalising the video signal from losses caused by the nature of the connection between each of the video cameras and the selector means; and,

15 a control means connected to the equaliser means and the selector means, the control means having a reference means having data quantifying the losses between each video camera and the selector means, and the control means controlling the equaliser means to compensate for the losses associated with each video camera as its video signal is displayed on the video monitor and/or recorded on the VRD so that the condition of the video signal at the video monitor and/or VRD is equalised substantially independent of the characteristics of the connection between the video camera and the selector means so that only one equalisation means is required per video monitor and/or VRD instead of one equalisation means per video camera.

3. A video camera substitution system for a video security system having a fixed video camera for viewing a target area, a pan-tilt video camera capable of orientation to substantially view the said target area and a video monitor and/or VRD capable of operation in a record mode, the video camera substitution system comprising:

30 a failure detection means for detecting failure of the fixed video camera;

35 a camera preset means having data concerning the position of the target area with respect to the pan-tilt

video camera; and,

a control means in operative association with the failure detection means, the camera preset means and the pan-tilt video camera, the control means being capable of controlling the pan-tilt video camera for moving and setting the pan-tilt video camera to monitor the target area when the failure detection means detects failure of the fixed video camera so that the target area is monitored substantially continuously.

10 4. A video recorder substitution system for a video security system comprising:

a first VRD for recording a video signal corresponding to a target area;

15 a second VRD also capable of recording the video signal corresponding to said target area;

a record failure detection means for detecting failure of the first VRD to record said video signal, including failure due to change-over of recording media and due to taking the video recorder out of record its mode of operation; and,

20 a control means in operative association with the record failure detection means, with the first VRD and with the second VRD, the control means being capable of controlling the second VRD to set the second VRD to record said video signal in the event that the record failure detection means detects failure of the first VRD so that the video signal corresponding to the target area is recorded substantially continuously.

25 5. A video recorder substitution system according to claim 4, in which there are a plurality of first VRDs and a plurality of second VRDs so as to facilitate management of recording from a plurality of video cameras.

30 6. A video recorder substitution system according to claim 4, also including a log generating means for

producing a log of data corresponding to which VRD the
video signal from each video camera was recorded onto so as
to enable the video signal recorded onto a plurality of
recording media on a plurality of VRDs to be retrieved and
5 reviewed.